

Small Group Discussion Questions Greenville County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Transitioning economy-pressure on education
- Building of new facilities
- Dual credit/ credit recovery
- Academics/ school choice
- IB/ Magnet
- Foreign language opportunity
- Teacher accountability/ teacher/ administration quality
- MAP testing
- Quality / learning (chamber) continuous
- Technology/individualized (laptops)
- Communication is better
- Distance learning (sex ed/ science)
- Twilight programs
- Wireless schools
- Teacher cadets/ reimbursement for teachers
- Staff per program
- ESOL Programs/Parent Staff Development
- Celebrating cultures
- Variety of community focus/ support organizations
- Child Find, CDS
- RTI Response to Intervention
- Success by six
- Shining Stars
- Faith based tutoring/ NHS, Flour
- United Way – HYS
- Alliance for Ed
- POE (Chamber, Leadership)
- Building program
- Closing the Gap
- Graduate Greenville
- Lifelong learning
- Family Learning in CDCs
- PTA
- School to Work
- Community in school
- Urban League
- Teacher Forum

- Professional Development
- Center for Ed. Equity
- Technology Initiatives
- Refresh- Title/ laptops-parent use
- Teacher improvement weekends
- Building programs
- Roper
- Updating tech for students
- Career and art centers
- 1st steps program
- parent education
- map testing
- Teacher Evaluation -Past Pas A
- Middle school certificate. No – child left behind
- Virtual school
- Comp family literacy GED Program
- Parent university by Urban League
- Community emphasis on reading activities
- Peace Center IDEA Program
- Roper Mountain Science Center
- One unified school district
- Strong PTA's
- Parents as teachers
- Family literacy
- Child care/ success by six
- Parent / teacher conferences
- EED in middle schools (career planning)
- Alliance for quality education
- Facilities program
- U.W. Community Impact agenda and partner agencies
- Graduate Greenville
- Black churches-Back to school / Stay in school
- Charter schools / magnets, IB, etc.
- Vision 2005 Education task force
- Business community involvement
- Shining Stars-Teacher recruitment
- Professional development opportunity
- Quality of life
- Public library system

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- Transitioning economy
- Alignment / duplication of effort
- Better need for vertical / horizontal planning thru out community
- Same voice?
- Family structure/ culture
- Not all see continuing education as a goal
- Education not a priority – “real reasons”
- “disconnect” w/parents from schools
- Bad news is >prone to get out, on going vehicle needed for good news!
- Language barriers (parents)
- Same people on every committee
- Time
- Parental support conflicting priority
- Apathy
- Accountability system (federal level) (perception fact)
- Lack of communication
- Overlap of organizations
- Breadth of responsibilities changing
- Cultural differences
- Poverty
- ESOL
- Teacher shortage n critical areas(science, math, EEDA Specialties)
- Teacher prep programs (higher ed)
- Legislative and State Board action w/o planning or knowing impact (dual credit UGP)
- Excessive Bureaucracy Litigation (Special Ed.)
- Gap in achievement within state
- Lack of state funding for transportation.
- Parental apathy
- Appropriate facilities for 3 to 5 yr olds
- Educational jargon
- Business community, faith also language barrier (break this)
- Literacy Family and adult
- Low expectations
- Socioeconomic barriers
- Choices-too much competition for attention.
- Negative media
- Some tech interferes with skill learning and problem solving abilities
- Attitude of general population toward importance of public education
- Lack of awareness of choices/ opportunities
- Lack of access to opportunity

- Competition for funds among educational institutions
- Transition of community
- Negative perception of school system
- Low salaries for educators
- Challenges in teaching
- Lack of community resources
- Competition from private schools
- Lack of makes being attracted to education
- Certification process requirements out of date
- Lack of coordination
- Cultural and societal values
- Not enough funding for certain programs such as 4k
- Lack of follow through
- Slow to respond to changing needs – funding priorities

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- All organizations look thru the 5 lenses of Common Ground-no “new” organization needed.
- Make family involvement a priority
- Reading instruction-Priority
- All learning/testing packages must have diagnostic info.
- Remove barriers within the system that get in the way of students motivation, responsibility and learning.
- Alignments of organizations to solve issues (Chamber Leadership) (Connection) (unity of effort)
- End unfunded mandates
- More public / private partner
- Student ownership
- Positive, productive communication with legislature
- PSA outreach to everywhere urban, etc.
- Parents take responsibility
- Positive communication
- Money for transportation affect community involvement
- New diagnostic tool besides PACT for feed back on student performance.
- Teacher aids for above kindergarten
- To actively involve business in process of education
- Bolster our pre-k program so that students are adequately prepared for k-5
- Transportation/bus system scheduling/busing
- Local control of funding (local resources discussion)
- Salaries
- Pay for performance/merit pay

- After school programs
- Transportation to reach programs
- Middle school opportunities for career centers
- Community awareness/ promote value of education
- Longer school day
- Develop local agenda among school board, business community, parents, etc.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-